



**EPISCOPAL
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
FOR MIDDLE AND NORTH GEORGIA



The Church of the Common Ground

*A church on the streets of Atlanta sharing the good news
that we are all God's beloved!*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT WILL BUILD CAPACITY FOR PEER-TO-PEER CARE IN CHURCH COMMUNITY ON THE STREETS OF ATLANTA

Church of the Common Ground, Atlanta's "church without walls," will team with Care and Counseling Center of Georgia to offer pastoral care training to members

November 16, 2017—Women and men who live with economic and housing insecurity on the streets of Atlanta will strengthen their abilities to serve and support one another through a \$5,000 grant from the Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia (ECF) to Church of the Common Ground (CCG), a church community in the heart of the city.

CCG has no church building; it ministers to its members on the streets of Atlanta, and hosts worship each week at 1 p.m. in downtown Woodruff Park. The ECF grant is for a "Peer-to-Peer Pastoral Care and Connections" initiative to help church members help one another.

Together with CCG clergy, professional staff from the Care and Counseling Center of Georgia will gather Common Ground church members together for pastoral care training workshops. The training will further cultivate a support network of compassion, faith, and assistance on city streets and in hospitals, clinics, shelters, hospices, and recovery centers in the metro Atlanta area. Workshops will focus on communications skills and how to be an immediate and supportive presence in places and spaces where others are struggling.

"We're grateful to ECF for its investment in sharing compassion wherever people experience deep hurt and economic stress across our city," said the Reverend Mary Wetzel, vicar of Church of the Common Ground. "Our colleagues at the Care and Counseling Center of Georgia will be able partners in training members of our church community to share healing and hope with others."

The peer-to-peer pastoral care training program will begin in early 2018.

“We are honored to develop this important partnership with Church of the Common Ground through the support of the Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia,” said the Reverend Sandra Mullins, chief executive officer of Care and Counseling Center of Georgia. “We believe the peer-to-peer pastoral care training program honors each person and their special gifts. It truly provides for those most in need through the church community network, and allows for healing and hope for each person’s journey.”

“ECF is thrilled to support this Small Acts of Charity grant for Church of the Common Ground’s Peer-to-Peer Pastoral Care and Connections initiative,” said Lindsey Hardegree, executive director of the Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia. “In the past year, we have shifted our primary grant making to focus on larger, more impactful grants, but through our Small Acts of Charity program we are able to illustrate how a small amount can be catalyzed to create larger impact, whether through the piloting of a new program with the homeless or exploring creative uses of existing resources to better serve the poor and oppressed.”

About:

Church of the Common Ground is a church community on the streets of Atlanta. It offers weekly worship, morning prayer, bible study and a foot clinic to people who face economic insecurity in housing, employment, and health care, and who seek a church community in downtown Atlanta.

The Care and Counseling Center of Georgia offers a safe and welcoming place to receive help with life’s difficulties; it has 17 counseling sites throughout greater Atlanta.

About Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia

Founded in 1982 as the Episcopal Charities Foundation, the Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia (ECF) provides funding, leadership and resources to enable Episcopal parishes and nonprofit partners to lift up people facing poverty and oppression and to achieve significant, long-lasting impact in the Diocese of Atlanta. Since its inception, ECF has donated more than \$4 million to promote thriving and spiritually strong individuals, families, and communities locally. Learn more at www.ECFimpact.org.